Smith is a document management and production system that uses object oriented programming. Smith decomposes a document into logical components, which are stored as discrete objects in an object-oriented computational environment. Stored objects are organized, accessed and manipulated through a database management system (DBMS). When the documents are to be reconstructed and printed, the objects representing the document segments are assembled into an integrated hole and are either printed or electronically displayed. See, for example, col. 2, lines 54-64.

Applicants' claimed invention is not concerned with object-oriented programming. While Smith teaches splitting up portions of documents into various objects and then reassembling them for output, Applicants' claimed invention concerns printing encoded tokens on paper documents. The encoded tokens relate to other documents (those documents being electronic documents), and are used to provide a link those documents. Smith does not print encoded tokens relating to other (electronic) documents onto a paper document for the purposes linking the other documents.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 10 and 19 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-9, 11-18 and 20-27 depend from independent claims 1, 10 and 19 and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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